

ILLUSIONS

REFERENCE

JANUARY 2003

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FOR EDMONTON'S CROSSDRESSERS AND THOSE WHO ADMIRE THEM

EDITORIAL



Welcome again to our humble newsletter, wherein Edmonton trannies proudly present themselves to the universe at large! There's been several Good Things happened in the time since last issue, and it's past time to tell all!

We've had a couple of fabulous meetings with great turnouts, several of us headed Calgary way for their annual Christmas bash, and our own

Christmas dinner was a happy, if lightly-attended event. Our covergirl Elise competed in the Roost's Miss Bailey's drag competition, and while she wasn't the big winner, shortly thereafter she won a title of her own. Eight of us attended the makeup seminar at Est-Elle Academy and had an utter blast, and there were quite a few decent nights out with new members. As is the Illusions Edmonton custom, the New Year brings planning for the big February tranny bash, Winterfest. See the back page for details.

Remember, meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month – usually at the Gay&Lesbian Community Centre, though there appears to be some strong transphobia going on there recently, as we've been exiled to the tiny library for our meetings – the Roost has graciously offered space if we get bounced, though!

Some sad events have occurred, however. Not one, but two local fetish shops have packed up and gone: Affinity Allure (previously Alexis of California), proud purveyors of elegant footwear, custom and consigned Glam clothing on Stony Plain Road; and that stalwart of pervery, exotic wear, and tranny supplies, Rodeo Drive Collectibles. Although Connie of Affinity is well and truly done with the trade, Rodeo Drive's Brenda Lee is apparently still working out of her home. Fear not, however: B&D Emporium is still flogging its trendy, exotic, Goth, leather, and other specialty items at its Jasper Avenue location.

Tammy from Calgary and Dana from Red Deer have gotten together and started a Yahoo! Group specifically to bring together the various prairie chapters of the Illusions Social Club – Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, and all our friends and fans across the West. For the latest in meeting and event info, as well as a healthy dose of related TG seriousness and silliness, links and photos, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/illusionssocialclub>.

Western Canadian transgendered folk are making plans to

hold a celebration weekend here in River City (hopefully in October), in the style of Atlanta's famous Southern Comfort Cotillion. It will focus on issues dealing with crossdressers and transsexuals, and feature workshops, panels, and, of course, social events! Contact me, via e-mail, for info, and I'll pass you along to the Right People.

And finally, this is your newsletter – I need your input to continue doing it. Send your writing to me!

Shae

<http://www.tic.ab.ca/~shae/>

ELISE'S TURN!

Well, once again at Shae's request for a few words from me - I have returned for another issue. In the month of December, I took part in the Ms. Bailey's Pageant. It was a fun filled event in which 11 grls participated for prizes of \$1000, \$500 and \$250. Each participant was judged on personality, appearance, and outfits, and each had to do two performances. I was proud of my finish being 9th overall, considering the competition that I had.

At this time I would like to officially offer my congratulations to Twiggy for coming in first place (as shocked as she was that she did), to Vanity for being first runner up, and to Bianca for second runner up. You three each had outstanding performances and graces..I would also like to thank Liz, Shae, and Cathy for showing up and supporting me... Hugs to the three of you for that.

The next night I had inadvertently come to the club to be asked to run in the Mz. Mary Christmas (no, its not a misspelling either) pageant. This time, out of the two who competed, I did finish in first place.

Well, that's all for now, until the end of January where I will be taking part in a pageant for the newer girls on the circuit.. (wish me luck)

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LETTERS AND RANTS!

Dear Shae,

I am writing in response to one of the articles in the September Illusions newsletter. My name is Suzee-Lao, though I was incorrectly identified as Suzy Love, the CD who jello wrestled with Elise at one of the pride week events.

My male persona comes from a Jewish background, and although I am Buddhist, I believe in tolerance to all faiths, so I was disappointed to read the article on Deuteronomy 22:5, which I thought portrayed the Western scriptures in a very negative light.

I don't understand why you have a problem with "a man shall not put on a woman's garment: for...[that is] .. an abomination". Goodness girl, are you too cheap to buy your own clothes? I like to wear skirts, and lacy things, but they are mine. I bought all the feminine things I own myself (mostly at Dots, Zellers, and the Army & Navy). I have one hand-me-down top, but that was given to me by Ladonna. If a tranny is too impoverished even to shop where I shop, she can always learn the feminine art of sewing. My first skirt was made out of an old pair of jeans and some frilly window trim.

Deuteronomy 22: 5 clearly speaks to the guilt-ridden closet cross-dresser, who tries on his wife's clothes when she is not around, without her permission. And you know what? If his wife ever catches him, the Lord will have to wait her turn to speak about abominations. Don't you agree that it is much healthier to come out of the closet, get out with the grrls (in a club like Illusions) and buy one's own clothes?

There is one lady I know and care about, who was deeply traumatized as a teenager, because her macho father thought that being the one who paid the bills, he had the right to borrow her clothes and underwear, whenever he wanted. That kind of behaviour is abuse, and abuse is an abomination to everyone, including the Lord. I married a woman who was the same height as me and only a few pounds lighter. Yet I never wore her clothes, that would have been so disrespectful.

- And yet, closeted crossdressers wearing their wives' clothing is a common enough occurrence, if vile... -ed.

On our honeymoon, we stayed amongst a group of Orthodox Jews, and Pentecostal Christians, on a commune in the Wilderness of Zin. At one time that verse of Deuteronomy came up. Unlike devout Moslem women, Orthodox Jewish women do not wear pants and they felt the Christian women should not wear blue jeans. Others argued that skirts and robes for men and pants for women have always been in fashion in one part of the globe or another. Then somebody consulted the rabbinical writings on the subject, and determined that whatever was "worn in the city" was acceptable. In other words, if you can wear it inside a public

place (like Secrets, or the Roost) it's okay. If you have to hide, then you do have a problem.

When I started honouring my feminine sensual side, I made a point of getting out "in the city" as soon as possible. Living in Yellowknife wasn't easy, but eventually there was a Gay & Lesbian event at a harbour bar, and there I was outside by the float planes, shivering in my mini skirt and nylons, having a chat with my lesbian friends.

Speaking of that, the offending article also mentioned Leviticus 1:9 and how burning bulls on altars doesn't always make an odour pleasing to the LORD. Well first of all, the only altar on which that was to be done is now the site of a famous mosque. Secondly Leviticus, goes on to give a detailed recipe for an oil that was first poured out on the altar to perfume the smoke. In its original Hebrew we read that this oil was one-seventh "Cannabisem". Without this ingredient, the smoke of sacrifice is NOT pleasing to the Lord.

Now I know a few people in "the kink community" who expect tolerance for their lifestyle, but who have zero tolerance for other cultures and lifestyles like the Ganja-smoking Rastafarians or the peyote-using Native American Church. What's with that? The gay liberation movement sprang up in the tolerant sixties. The definitive moment happened in 1969, when the NYPD tried to raid a tranny bar called "The Stonewall", and the trannies fought back. The rainbow flag originally represented respect for all cultures, not just all spectrums of sexuality.

Today our governments are taking away our rights to free speech, and our rights to own guns, but... WHOOPEE! we can have sex however we like! When the government was pushing through the new anti-terrorism act, I went to see a wonderful production of "Cabaret" at the Winspear centre. Doesn't it make you think? Germany in the 20's and 30's was the centre of sexual freedom and expression. While everyone was enjoying themselves, the Nazis rose to power. Then they sent all the gays and trannies to the death camps.

There is only one sure way to guarantee that our lifestyle will be tolerated, and that is to practice tolerance for others. Sure there are people out there who think it is an abomination for men to shave their beards, and that the greatest part of sex is when you cuddle a little baby in your arms nine months later. But you know what? If we can't tolerate them, how much tolerance can we expect for ourselves?

Namaste, Suzee-Lao

- Points made! Buy your own, and be Christmas nice all year round to everyone! So get out there and be borderline normal, and don't forget to keep fighting against tyranny. But I'd like to point out that to a nice Catholic girl like me, the article was a chuckle. Christianity, after all, can be another form of tyranny... -ed.

THE NEXT STEP?

- by Bernadette (docfont@voyager.net)

"I want to convert my male body into sexy girl/woman body but am not sure how to do it. The bottom line is a perfect sexy young female body. But I still want to be male, dress up like a man and have children. I heard that 3-4 months will be enough for developing a female body, is it true?"

Think about this for a minute. Girls hit puberty around age 12 and it takes till age 18-21 for their bodies to mature and develop all the curves. This is without the problem of having testosterone effects or being in their 20's. You won't feminize in 4 months. If everything went perfectly you would show as much difference as a 12 year old who hadn't begun puberty compared to a 12 years and 4 month old. Since you have testosterone in your system as well as 10 years older, the results are going to be far from perfect.

You can have a male sex drive and fertility; or, you can have hormonal feminization. You can't have both.

You want a perfect sexy young body. So do I, and so does every other girl. Not too many of those perfect sexy young bodies out there, are there? I'll tell you a little story. Long ago I used to be into muscle cars. There was a sign on the wall of the auto parts store where I bought a lot of my performance parts, "Speed costs money. How fast do you want to go?" The same philosophy applies here. "Beauty costs money. How good do you want to look?" If you want a perfect, young, sexy body it is going to cost you. It is going to cost you a lot. Not just the cost of the hormones, therapy, surgery involved. You can get body sculpting and implants that will look great on the outside but may give you auto immune diseases. Look at the history of silicone breast implants. It is going to cost you hours every day working to keep it in shape and more hours on makeup and fashion. If you wanted a perfect, sexy, young male body you can see that it would require spending many hours every day working out in the gym even when there is no hormone therapy or surgery involved. Beauty contestants build their entire existence around getting ready for the next competition.

It is not just achieving a goal. If you gain one thing you will be giving up something else. A car can be turned into a racecar. It will go fast in a limited environment, the racetrack. But to go fast it sacrifices the ability to be driven on the street in all weather conditions. You can modify your body to female but you have to sacrifice what it can do as a male.

Even in the shemale world there are not that many fully feminized, beauties with big cocks. Look at the porn for a while and you will see the same individuals over and over again. I am still seeing the TS known as Sulka from the 1970's in pictures and she had her sex change operation back in the 1980's. One of the first things you learn when you start hormones and develop breasts: your sex drive



cartoon by our prez, Cathy Johnson

GENDER FUNNIES

- from my dad!

ZIPLOC BAGS - male, because they hold everything in, but you can always see right through them.

HOURLASS - female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.

SWISS ARMY KNIFE - male, because even though it appears useful for a wide variety of work, it spends most of its time just opening bottles.

KIDNEYS - female, because they always go to the bathroom in pairs.

SHOE - male, because it is usually unpolished, with its tongue hanging out.

WEB PAGE - female, because it is always getting hit on.

HOT AIR BALLOON - male, because to get it to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under it... and, of course, there's the hot air part.

COPIER - female, because once turned off, it takes a while to warm up. Because it is an effective reproductive device when the right buttons are pushed. Because it can wreak havoc when the wrong buttons are pushed.

TIRE - male, it goes bald and is often overinflated.

SPONGES - female, because they are soft and squeezable and retain water.

HAMMER - male, because it hasn't evolved much over the last 5,000 years, but it's handy to have around.

REMOTE CONTROL - female... Ha! You thought I'd say male. But consider, it gives man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know the right buttons to push, he keeps trying.

gets out of the way, so you see things objectively, i.e., how fake porn is. Shemale porn sets the standards for fake.

Hormones are not little miracle pills. Thinking that they are is a warning sign that this is a fantasy and not reality. A gender therapist could help you learn what is real and what is fantasy.

Here is a little more reality. On full dosage hormones with antiandrogen and additional progesterone, most TS on hormones feel the first signs of something happening in 2 to 6 weeks. There are little nodules that form under the areola that are tender if pressed. In a month or three the areola begin to bulge slightly and the nipple looks erect but there is no increase in breast size. This is the stage of development known as "puffies". After a year most TS are A cup plus or minus. Many see no change. Bigger than an A cup is rare but it does happen once in a while. Most of those cases seem to be related to being overweight and some breast development even before hormones. A large portion of TS end up having breast implants if they want C cups. Check out the "before" photos on this website for actual examples of development;
<http://www.annelawrence.com/breasts.html>.

There are symptoms related to hormone overdose. The nipples get so sore it hurts to wear a shirt. The kidneys ache like someone is punching you in the back. There are muscle twitches, then spasms that warn of impending blood clots.

Here is a story much closer to the truth in the US. Congress passed a law a few years ago to allow access to experimental drugs for AIDS patients. Since they could not pass a special exemption just for one group, they had to make the loophole apply to everyone equally. Stated simply it allows anyone to order up to a 90 day supply of prescription drugs for personal use only from an overseas pharmacy with no prescription needed. There is no such thing as a prescription for an experimental drug so it clearly states none is required. Schedule 1 to schedule 4 controlled substances are still banned but everything else can be ordered lawfully. There are other groups taking advantage of this like retirees who save money on prescriptions, life extension drugs, IQ enhancement drugs.

When word got out on the Internet about the option of HRT without the need to see a doctor there was a huge amount of flaming the DoltYourselfers, DIYers. First there were shouts of it isn't true. Next came the doom and gloomers

predicting dropping dead in mass numbers. The hysterics were right out of the movie Reefer Madness with all the zeal of fundamentalists proclaiming the evils of sex, drugs, rock & roll.

One of the repeated warnings of the doom and gloomers is hormone use will run out of control if it is not monitored. The reality was the opposite. Those thousands of people on /TSDIY/ repeatedly asked what was the lowest effective dosage or minimum they could take. They were conscious of the risks and often looked for ways to lower them.

Are there those who are self-destructive? Yes. They die of their lifestyle, not the hormones. You won't find a death certificate that lists cause of death as "hormone overdose". Who do you blame it on when someone who wants to drink, smoke, do drugs, have high risk sex, has a history of hepatitis or other liver disease... won't listen to facts? They were ignoring the advice about the other risks in their life too.

What are the risks? No one knows since there is no direct research on transsexuals by double blind study. We are not a big enough group for the drug companies to invest the money. The closest we can come is the research done on HRT for postmenopausal women. The latest research for DVT puts the risk at 2.1 per 10,000 the first year with no risk above the control group after the first year. The rate in the general population is 1.6 per 10,000. The next argument from the doom and gloomers is that we take higher doses. This is true. But those dosages are still lower than the levels in pregnant females. Pregnant females have a 6X increased risk. If we apply that to TS HRT it still works out to between 1 and 3 per thousand. Of that risk, almost all is related to oral estrogens and of that risk most is related specifically to estinyl estradiol. If anyone wants to warn you about the extreme risks of HRT, ask them for documentation. They can only offer up stories like "I knew 5 transsexuals who died of hormones. I knew someone who kept increasing their dosage until they destroyed their health."

If you don't know what you are doing there are two options. See a doctor and let him make the decisions. That doesn't make it risk free but you are supervised. The second option is: Study, learn about the risks and make an informed decision for yourself.

See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TSDIY> for more info.

Secrets Bar and Grill

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...the place to be yourself

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Illusions girls attending Julie Heumann's makeup course on the last two weekends of November- we came, we saw, we learned, we all had a laugh, and we looked fabulous!

MORE GENDER FUNNIES

From Geree Gabrielle

Smart man + smart woman = romance
Smart man + dumb woman = affair
Dumb man + smart woman = marriage
Dumb man + dumb woman = pregnancy

Smart boss + smart employee = profit
Smart boss + dumb employee = production
Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion
Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need.

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.
A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

A successful man is one who makes more than his wife can spend.
A successful woman is one who can find such a man

To be happy, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.
To be happy, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.
A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, and she does.

HOTELS DON'T DISCRIMINATE!

September 30, 2002 - Responding to concerns that it was prohibiting franchisees from hosting events for "sodomasochism enthusiasts" and other "Controversial Guests," (such as crossdressers) the Cendant Corporation Hotel Group has assured the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom that it will honor the right of franchisees to host the events of their choice.

Cendant operates more than 6,400 hotels and 5,200 lodging franchisees, including Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Ramada, Days Inn, and Super 8 Motel.

The agreement was reached after NCSF worked closely with Cendant Hotel Division to clarify statements in a March 2002 letter from Cendant to its franchisees. In the letter, Cendant said it would "respond aggressively and immediately" when franchisees fail to consider the "potential negative consequences of hosting activities that your community and national interest groups find offensive."

Cendant had written the letter to its franchisees after religious political extremists, such as Concerned Women for America and the American Family Association, began targeting hotels that host legal, private conferences for adults interested in SM practices.

In a letter dated September 20th, Cendant now states they will honor their franchisees "right to sell their guest rooms and function space to the persons of their choice."

"Cendant's position is a major step toward ensuring that no American will be barred from a hotel or public establishment because of how they express their sexuality," said Susan Wright, NCSF spokesperson. "We applaud Cendant for its cooperative spirit and fair-mindedness in addressing this important issue."

Wright said that NCSF would continue to work with both local groups who organize conferences for adults as well as the lodging industry. "Our goal is to promote both freedom of access and to ensure that all events hosted by members of our community are held in a safe, legal, and responsible manner," said Wright.

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MY COMING OUT EXPERIENCE

-By Lacey Leigh

Having written a book on accepting oneself as a heterosexual male-to-female crossdresser, I have a rising profile within the transgender community. It would seem that one particular individual who "holds court" in an internet support group felt challenged by my open and cheerful attitude and by my refusal to bow to intimidation from someone who is so zealously Politically Correct. That person therefore felt justified in outing me by publishing my name, home address, business and home telephone numbers, and other personal information across the internet, including but not limited to crossposting to various transgender discussion groups as well as those newsgroups which focused on my professional specialty.

Of course what that individual couldn't have known was that I was already well into planning my own debut, the announcement having long been scheduled for less than 60 days after the incident occurred. Thus, the intended smear rather fell flat; mostly because I refused to be intimidated by the tactic and also because I have finally become comfortable with who I am and the Gift of Gender I possess.

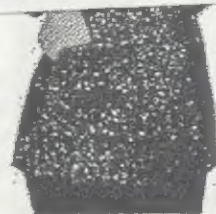
The most encouraging thing was that within hours I began receiving e-mail from around the world (I have a *very* high profile in my profession, being the publisher of a newsletter which goes to 18 countries). Every one of those e-mail messages, as well as the phone calls and letters which continued to arrive for weeks, was positive, supportive, and encouraging. In fact, most assumed that my 'outing' was some sort of traumatic revelation, which would be embarrassing in some way - exactly the opposite of the way I felt and the manner in which circumstances worked out.

About all that was accomplished by the malicious attack was that my timetable was advanced by two months and I was denied the benefit of a splashy debut.

Because the person who attempted the 'outing' is a troubled soul (all the indications are of bipolar disorder) I can't really maintain much of a grudge - although my anger at the time was immense because this person was supposedly a supportive transgender advocate. Still, I cannot forget the terrible intentions behind the act, regardless of the outcome. Purposely violating another's personal privacy with the intent to smear or harm is unforgivable.

My personal philosophy is one of "don't worry about what you cannot control", it would seem I was able to take everything in stride. My family had long known (my adult daughter borrows pantyhose, for example) and I have a very supportive wife of more than 33 years. So 'damage control' was limited to posting a few comments (and a couple of photos, femme and homme) to my website. I believe it's because I no longer have any guilt or shame about being transgendered that my 'outing' was rather "so what". Once one has self-acceptance, the rest is really easy.

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for so long becomes a matter of habit.

I would suggest that the revelation be one-on-one whenever possible, done in a matter-of-fact manner without resorting to excuses or whining psychobabble. We're not ill, disturbed, or unbalanced; simply (as compared to the bulk of humanity) unusual.

Coming out reaffirmed to me that true friends don't turn their backs, even if they don't understand. Instead, even the people I had thought would be the least accepting turned out to be among the most supportive. Give people an opportunity to love you.

I am finally at peace with myself. I decided that denial and guilt and shame were things of the past and jettisoned those awful weights that I had been bearing all those years. In fact, I am now much more productive than ever before. I never realized what a (you should pardon the expression) drag it was to maintain that wall of secrecy - keeping my stories straight. Absent that drain on my limited resources, I can put that energy to use in myriad and very profitable ways.

There was no heartache other than that momentary anger at the person who spoiled my grand announcement. Since that time I have been openly transgendered and extremely proactive among my colleagues, peers, and associates when it comes to transgender outreach. I don't wear it on my sleeve and I certainly respect others enough not to be a 'one note horn' when enjoying others' company, but if the subject is broached I tend to be enthusiastic and passionate about the topic.

I guess the adage is true, there is no more zealous advocate than a recent convert.

Nike is right. Just do it.

Lacey Leigh is the author of "Out & About - The Emancipated Crossdresser". She can be contacted through her website, <http://www.LaceyLeigh.com>, which soon will have additional articles available for download.

And it has been. Under the heading of "If I knew then what I know now..." I would have trusted those whom I love with knowledge of my 'secret' much earlier. It's my view that most people want to do the right thing, if only they can be given some expectation of what that might be. It's the keeping of a secret, the maintenance of that facade of untruth, which is the most damaging. One friend surprised me by asking, "Why didn't you trust me with this before now?" Of course he probably couldn't understand how keeping something buried

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REVIEWS - by Shae Guerin

There's been a world of crossdressing-related Stuff happening, and other things that this editor has Finally Gotten Around To, so we'll start with the realworld items: books, magazines, videos, and other things one can hold in one's hand.

Vested Interests: Cross-Dressing & Cultural Anxiety (1992, Routledge, Chapman & Hall), by Marjorie Garber, is precisely the type of learned twaddle that muddies up the waters of crossdressing. Garber isn't any form of sociologist or other form of professional people-watcher; rather, her take on crossdressing is from her experience as an English Lit professor specializing in Shakespeare. This makes for a scholarly, weighty tome, full of references to literary and theatrical works, but hardly any serious insight into the psyche of transvestites. Though she does pay lip service to F-to-M and lesbian underground culture as well as male transvestitism and the fetish scene, she spends most of the book quoting others - as an editor, a marvelous job. As someone actually contributing insight into the transvestite scene, she fails utterly and manages to make the subject incredibly tedious and unreadable. Pass on this book.

Deirdre McCloskey's **Crossing: A Memoir** (1999, U. of Chicago Press) is worlds away from the previously mentioned book. It's a look at a crossdresser who clues in to the fact that gender crossing isn't just about wearing the clothes, but, to quote: "Being a woman is what you do, not what you wear. Caring, watching, noticing." Though a bit confusing with its timelines, and sometimes frustrating with its constant offhand put-downs of ordinary crossdressers, it's a lyrically written and interesting documentary of a person who successfully changes from a man to a woman. A great reason for the success is her realization that she's neither but both, and changes inside as well as out. Recommended for both crossdressers and budding transsexuals.

On a completely unrelated note, the December issue of FHM (For Him Magazine) featured a Special Lingerie Section. Nestled within photo spreads of Ali Landry, five girls-next-door, Mary Jo Conley, and FHM's Sexiest Lingerie Moments, is a half-page, five-photo article from a writer who actually tried on some of these lacy bits. He rates the garter-and-stockings as most comfortable of the

lot, and the article is moderately serious in tone. Of course, he misses the point of crossdressing, but as we all know, it's not for all men...

And this issue's choice for Microwave-of-the-Month is the DVD of **Sorority Boys** (Touchstone Pictures, 2002). Shameless mugging, every bad tranny cliché you can think of, and the level of humour you'd expect from most of Adam Sandler's performances, make this my choice for Worst Waste of Celluloid. Edmonton readers of the local arts tabloids will note: most movie reviewers agree that this stinker of a flick isn't worth more than a few words, all bad. Thank ghod the bricks milady and I threw at the television were made of foam rubber! Awful, awful, awful!

The Closeted Crossdresser

This is a group in which members can openly discuss issues associated with crossdressing. The purpose of the group is to assist one another by sharing ideas, stories, photos, fashion and makeup tips and techniques, or simply chatting about crossdressing. There's a wealth of info and support, and it's a fine place to be. Join us!



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/closetedcrossdresser>

On the Internet, one can find all sorts of things simply by typing "Crossdressing" into the search field of Metacrawler, Ask Jeeves, or any of your favourite search engines. Still, surfing away from new links can provide pleasant surprises.

One such new site found this way is the **Vanity Club**, a group of mostly Southern-US grtz who post some awesome photos and links to their sites. Membership is set up by nomination, so it's not the sort of thing one can join like any Yahoo! or MSN group. For inspiration, it's a site well worth checking out. Go to <http://www.vanityclub.com/>.

Girls Club Reporter is a fabulous info source located at <http://www.tenview.com/gcreporter.html>. Chock-full of the requisite news, links, and photos, it adds other good info such as transgendered job listings, historical articles, and excerpts from such publications as Girl Talk. Again, it's heavily US-centric, so some of it isn't as helpful as it could be, but it's seriously worth a bit of your online time.

And though I do help moderate the above-advertised Closeted Crossdresser group, another worthwhile Yahoo! group I've recently run across is Crossdressing Passion. Again, it's more oriented towards those trannies living in the southern US, but welcomes all interested individuals onto its rolls (2900 since April 2000!). It serves more as a notice board and photo repository than as a philosophical discussion group, but has awesome (if sometimes tasteless) links and photo sections. Go to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/crossdressingpassion>.

WINTERFEST 2003

EDMONTON'S CLASSY LITTLE CROSSDRESSING EVENT!

Saturday, Feb 22

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at CAROLE'S CAFÉ
10145-104St, Edm.

Cocktails 6pm – Dinner 7pm – Stage Show 8:30

Advance Tickets only @ \$45, by Feb. 19th

For info call Dixie at 780-464-0234 or e-mail her at dixland@datanetlab.ca.

COMFORT INN, 10425-100ave. Rooms are \$69+tx. Call (toll-free) 1-888-384-6835 or 423-5611.

The Friday night \$10 social will be held in the Presidential Suite.

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